



DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
DEFENSE SUPPLY CENTER, COLUMBUS
POST OFFICE BOX 3990
COLUMBUS, OH 43216-5000

IN REPLY
REFER TO

DSCC-V

JAN 25 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Requirements for Qualified Product List (QPL) Items

This memorandum is intended for all companies that supply QPL hose, fittings or hose assemblies under DSCC contracts. It has been sent to all companies that contracted to supply such QPL items to the Government within the last two years. A copy is also available on the DSCC-VQ web page.

This memorandum is intended to clarify requirements for hose, fittings and hose assemblies that are supplied as QPL items. This memorandum applies to all entities that provide products to the Government or private industry which are marked, sold or advertised as QPL items conforming to Government qualification requirements. This guidance is intended for suppliers listed on a QPL approved to manufacture or assemble items and to suppliers not listed on the QPL who are required to provide items manufactured or assembled by a QPL source.

DSCC recently completed an internal audit of contracts that required the delivery of a QPL hose assembly. The results of this audit indicated that numerous hose assemblies were provided which did not meet QPL requirements. In most cases, the non-conformity resulted from the item being assembled from QPL hose and fittings by a source not listed on the applicable QPL. Contractors identified through the audit as having supplied non-conforming products have been referred to the appropriate DSCC organization for investigation and resolution.

This memorandum is intended to clarify when an assembler/manufacturer must be a source listed on the applicable QPL.

If a supplier intends to provide a hose, fitting or hose assembly of its own manufacture under a requirement for a QPL hose, fitting or assembly, the supplier must be listed on the applicable QPL and the items must be manufactured at a location specified on the QPL. If a supplier has multiple manufacturing locations, acceptable QPL products can only be produced at the locations specified in the QPL, and product designs that have been qualified in accordance with the applicable specification. The manufacturer must be in full compliance with the qualification procedures/requirements of the applicable specification and QPL, including performance of all required testing. Periodic audits are conducted to ensure that all qualification requirements are being met. All items advertised, marked or sold as an approved QPL items must be manufactured by a QPL listed and approved supplier at a location listed on the QPL.




If under a requirement for a QPL hose, fitting or assembly, a supplier intends to provide a hose, fitting or hose assembly manufactured by another firm, the supplier need not be listed on the QPL but is responsible for providing an approved product listed on the applicable QPL. The product supplies must be entirely constructed, assembled, marked and tested by a source and at a manufacturing location listed on the applicable QPL. The supplier must maintain documentation establishing that it provided an approved QPL product. This proof shall be in the form of a certificate of conformance or similar traceability back to a qualified supplier and location. The supplier cannot add to or in any way modify the QPL product. For example, if a QPL hose assembly is required, the firm assembling the item must be listed on the QPL. A supplier not listed on the QPL **cannot** assemble the item using QPL hose and fitting(s). Similarly, a supplier listed on the QPL cannot manufacture/assemble the item at a location not listed on the QPL.

Suppliers who wish to provide a product of their own manufacture but are not currently approved and listed under the applicable QPL are encouraged to seek qualification. However, until such qualification is received, they cannot provide an item of their own manufacture under a requirement for a QPL item. If an unapproved QPL item is provided under a DSCC contract, the supplier may be subject to contractual, administrative, civil or criminal remedies and penalties. DSCC intends to continue with frequent internal audits and to monitor contract deliveries to confirm that only approved QPL products are being provided. Appropriate sanctions will be pursued against all suppliers who provide non-QPL products when a QPL item is required.

As a final clarification, a supplier and the supplier's location must be listed on the applicable QPL if the supplier is to actually build the QPL hose assembly, hose or fitting. Simply using a QPL fitting and QPL hose does not constitute a QPL assembly if the assembler and the location are not listed on the applicable QPL. However, these restrictions apply only to an entity doing the actual assembly of the product. Any entity may act as a supplier (distributor) of QPL product, but only if they are providing a QPL hose assembly that was originally manufactured, assembled and tested by an approved QPL source and location for that item. The supplier must document the authenticity of the QPL item.

DSCC appreciates the efforts of all suppliers in providing only approved QPL products in support of the warfighter and in conformance to stated contractual requirements. If you receive a solicitation or award and are uncertain as to whether a QPL product is required, it is your responsibility to inquire as to the Government's requirements. For matters pertaining to the QPL status of suppliers, contact DSCC-VQP (Gene Ott) at (614) 692-0665; for matters concerning contractual requirements, contact the DSCC buying activity for the particular contract in question.

A prior memorandum setting forth additional QPL guidance is attached for your convenience.


RONALD I. BAYLESS
Deputy Director
Operations Support Group

Attachment



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DSCC-VQ

JUN 19 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR MILITARY/INDUSTRY

SUBJECT: Qualified Products List (QPL) Issues

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify compliance requirements for suppliers producing hose, fittings, and assemblies in accordance with military and/or commercial specifications that have an associated qualified products list (QPL) requirement. This memorandum applies to any material identified as QPL including military and commercial transactions that specify a QPL requirement. The policy stated herein has been coordinated with and concurred in by the DSCC Office of Counsel.

1. If a part is built in accordance with an MS sheet (military specification or drawing) or an AS (non-government standard), and the MS or AS has an associated procurement specification that requires qualification/QPL, a QPL item is required to be supplied. This is true even if the procuring specification is not listed in the contract ordering document. For example, if a customer asks for a part in accordance with MS8000 and MS8000 references MIL-H-25579 which has a qualification requirement but the customer does not specifically reference MIL-H-25579, the part being supplied must still be produced (manufactured/assembled) by someone on the 25579 QPL.

2. If a QPL item is ordered in accordance with a military specification, only the Preparing Activity may waive the qualification requirement and then only under limited circumstances. See DoD 41 20.24-M, App. 2 at AP2.4. A non-Preparing Activity customer (military or private industry) may not waive the specification requirements and still mark an item QPL. However, it may have the item marked as its own part number produced pursuant to its own drawing. For example, if a customer wants a part in accordance with MIL-H-25579, and the burst test requirement cannot be met, the customer can waive the burst requirement, but may not have the part marked and identified as a QPL 25579 part. The customer may have the part identified as an XYZ item supplied to its own drawing instead.

3. If an OEM's drawing states that an item must be "in accordance with" or "shall comply with" a specification with a QPL requirement (e.g. IAW 25579), and all of the specification requirements can not be met, an OEM may waive or remove the QPL requirement only if it has complete control over the configuration of the drawing. See MIL-HDBK-61. Thus, if ABC, Co. wants to buy XYZ, Inc. part number 123, XYZ

(assuming XYZ has complete configuration control over the controlling drawing) can remove the military specification requirement from its drawing. However, the item can only be marked "XYZ p/n 123" not "XYZ p/n123 QPL". ABC Co. has no authority to remove the military specification requirement from XYZ's drawing unless the resultant part is to be supplied and marked as a totally unique item produced as an ABC Co. part number.

4. If a specification has a qualification requirement and an associated QPL, and a drawing states that the item is to be built in accordance to the specification, the item on the drawing may only be produced by a company on the QPL even though the QPL is not referenced on the face of the drawing. For example, if a drawing states that the hose assembly must be in accordance to MIL-H-13531, and MIL-H-13531 has a hose assembly qualification, the hose assembly on the drawing must be produced by a QPL 13531 listed company.

Thank you for your continued support of the QPL program and assistance in industry-wide compliance with military specifications. Please refer any questions to Gene Ott, (614)692-0665; Mark Parshall, (614)692-0666 or Robert Evans (614)692-0677.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Darrell Hill", is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the left.

L. DARRELL HILL
Chief
Sourcing and Qualifications Unit

cc:
DSCC-C/L/A/M/P